



## Maloney Proposes Grant Writer Post

Supt. John Maloney recommended last week that Selectmen consider the appointment of a town grantsmanship writer. No decision is expected until Selectmen review the request with members of the School Committee and Advisory Board.

Maloney had initially included the recommendation

for the employment of a person who would obtain federal and state grants as an alternative in the proposed school budget. It was voted down two weeks ago when it went before the School Committee as it was felt the position could be shared with other town departments.

Maloney's original premise for establishing the new position was that the securing of external funds to offset inflation and negotiated salary increases would ensure the maintenance and excellence of school programs. This position can be extrapolated, according to Maloney, to cover town departments wherever possible.

Another reason for the position, Maloney said, is the potential return of large amounts of external money from otherwise unknown sources. "We're (the School Department) doing it now only as it comes to our attention," Maloney said. "We're up against communities more affluent than we are, who employ two or three individuals who do this type of work, and correspondingly they are setting up new programs."

Maloney believes the grantsman would return more than enough to the town to cover his own salary, but Selectman Henry Ainslie didn't quite agree. "That is the argument often given for that type of position," he said. In fact, the Selectmen seemed reluctant to take on a new position as they feared availability of grants is decreasing.

Maloney responded later, "I can't guarantee there would be a crop to harvest, but I have a very strong feeling that there's money there. We need a person who can ferret it out."

The position would be full-time with a twelve-month work year. Maloney's suggested salary was \$14,000, benefits included \$1,200 for travel expenses and parking, and \$800 for more miscellaneous

expenses, for a total of \$16,000.

A two-year commitment to the position was proposed by Maloney in his outline to the School Committee. The first year would be devoted to reviewing legislation, literature, and making contacts — in short, discovering where and how grants are available. The second year would hopefully yield more money after the position had been researched.

Maloney said that he would be willing to oversee the grantsman for both the town and the School Department. It is his intent to house the employee in a school office and give general direction. The position would require, Maloney said, a person who is a go-getter, and who can devote his entire energies to reading, research and writing, and who is capable of being

absent from the school system for several consecutive days if necessary.



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